



U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Bringing Agricultural Products to the United States from Canada

This fact sheet is provided as a guide for individuals bringing fruits, vegetables, plants, seeds, nuts, plant products, animals, and animal products from Canada to Washington. Requirements for items from other sources or destinations may be more restrictive. This information is not exhaustive, and is intended for travelers, **not for commercial importers**.

Important!

When entering the United States, travelers must inform U.S. border inspectors of all fruits, vegetables, plants, plant products, live animals, meats, and animal products, regardless of whether they are allowed.

Failure to declare may result in penalties (fines) of \$300 or more.

Fresh Fruit (Citrus and tropical fruits are prohibited.)

U.S. fruits, except citrus, may return if they are in season and clearly marked with U.S. brand labels (For example, Washington apples with stickers). Citrus fruits are imported into Canada from all over the world and may carry insect pests or diseases that would be harmful to U.S. agriculture. Because of this risk, citrus fruits are not allowed.

Fruits grown in Canada or the United States are allowed. Labeled bananas from South America or Central America are allowed. Other fruits are restricted or prohibited. Fruits that are obviously out of season when they are presented (For example, grapes or peaches in the spring) or that are not grown in Canada or the United States, are prohibited.

Citrus, mangos, avocados, rambutans, plantains, lychee, longans, langsat, durian, and many other fruits are not grown in Canada. Canada imports fruit from many countries. If there is any doubt about origin, fruit will be prohibited.

Fresh Vegetables

Vegetables grown in Canada or the United States are usually allowed. Garlic chives, chives, green onions, leeks, or any other green Allium vegetable are prohibited from Canada. Potatoes are allowed only if commercially packaged or peeled. Corn on the cob

is allowed only if grown in British Columbia or the western United States.

Vegetables from other countries are restricted or prohibited. Frozen vegetables are allowed.

Meat and Animal Products

(Canadian Beef is Currently Allowed, Lamb, and Goat are Prohibited)

Under the **Minimal Risk Rule**, effective November 19, 2007, meat and meat products identifiable as containing beef, bison, or farm-raised venison are now allowed from Canada, limited to 50 pounds per importation.

Lamb and goat, including fresh, frozen, raw, cooked, canned, sausage, curry, home-made sauces containing lamb or goat, sheep casings, etc., are prohibited from Canada.

Pet food and pet treats containing lamb or goat, whether dry, canned, fresh, semi-moist, or veterinarian prescribed, are prohibited unless label on bag or can shows U.S. origin. Beef, chicken, fish, pork, and vegetarian pet food are currently allowed from Canada with a label listing the ingredients.

Pork, poultry, seafood, eggs, milk, and cheese from Canada are allowed. Pork and poultry are limited to 50 pounds per importation.

Hunter-harvested wild game is enterable with valid hunting permit, subject to United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife restrictions.

Seeds, Nuts, and Herbal Medicine

Most nuts, seeds, and spices for cooking or eating that have been roasted, boiled, shelled, split, or ground are allowed. Peanuts must be roasted or boiled. Cumin (jeera) must be ground.



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Raw nuts and seeds for eating that were grown in Canada or the United States are allowed.

Herbal medicine containing dried citrus peel, sliced deer antler, or certain seeds are prohibited.

Seeds for Planting

A Phytosanitary Certificate, Seed Analysis Certificate, Seed Export Label, or Import Permit is required to bring seeds for planting into the United States. Some seeds are prohibited from all countries, including Canada.

Plants

A Phytosanitary Certificate or Greenhouse Certification Program label is required for all plants, bulbs, and cuttings. Plants may be subject to special certifications and permits, especially fruit- and nut-bearing plants. Citrus plants and most palms and bamboo plants are prohibited. Please check with us or with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) before you purchase these items.

Plants in soil are allowed from most of Canada, but soil from Newfoundland, Alberta, Saint Amable in Quebec, and Central Saanich on Vancouver Island is prohibited without a USDA permit. Plants from these areas must be completely free of soil before CFIA will issue a Phytosanitary Certificate.

Cut Flowers and Greenery

Cut flowers and greenery must be inspected and found free of insects and diseases. Branches from fruit, nut or pine trees, laurel, cotton, hibiscus, and grape are prohibited.

Fresh cut Christmas trees from British Columbia or Alberta are allowed into Washington State with a

written receipt/declaration of origin. Christmas decorations made from Canadian conifer branches under ½ inch diameter are allowed.

Live Animals and Birds

Dogs and cats must be healthy and dogs also require current rabies certificates. Live fish from the provinces of Quebec and Ontario are prohibited. Carp, birds, hatching eggs, and other live animals are subject to USDA Veterinarian inspection to enter or re-enter the United States. Call Veterinary Services before you travel.

Firewood, Outdoor Articles, Boats, and Recreational Vehicles

Hardwood firewood is prohibited unless certified as treated. Softwood and clean board ends will still be allowed. However, firewood may carry insects and diseases. Travelers bringing firewood are subject to additional delays for inspection by U.S. Customs and Border Protection Agriculture Specialists, and may be required to return to Canada with their firewood if disease or evidence of live insects is detected. **“Don’t Move Firewood! Buy It Where You Burn It!”**

Inspect and clean articles, equipment, and vehicles stored outdoors to ensure freedom from injurious insect pests and weed seeds. ❖

The Department of Homeland Security prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, and marital status.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information should contact the officer on duty.

For Additional Information:

www.aphis.usda.gov or
www.cbp.gov

(Go to “Questions”, then to
“Find an Answer, Ask a Question”)

NEXUS

360-332-2380

US Customs and Border Protection

9901 Pacific Highway
Blaine, WA 98230

Agriculture Inspection

360-332-1831, -2351, or -1640

Customs and Immigration

360-332-8661 or -6318

USDA Veterinary Services

PO Box 1049
Sumas, WA 98295

Vet

360-988-5715

CBP

360-988-2971